(b) what is the unmber of sittings that Standing Committee had undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

Execution of Parbati Hydel Project

2366. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been signed between five States for the execution of the Parbati Hydel Power Project with a capacity of over 22,000 M. W. at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,000 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh in October, 1992 to collaborate in the joint investigations and execution of the Stage-II and Stage-III including transmission system of Parbati Valley Hydro Electric Project and for taking up feasibility level investigation of Stage-I. The total estimated cost of the above projects is Rs. 2396.32 crores. The total megawatt of power expected to be generated on completion of the above projects is 2051 MW.

Neglect of Hydel Power Capacity in the Country

2367. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has the potential of generating one lakh MW of hydro-electric power at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country produces only 12 per cent of that potential;

(c) if so, the reasons for low percentage of the output; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the production rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The country's economically exploitable hydro potential has been assessed by Central Electricity Authority as 84044 MW at 60% load factor with corresponding annual energy generation as 600 billion units.

(b) Out of the above assessed total hydro power potential, so far 14.45% has been developed and 7% is at present under development.

(c) The main reasons for low percentage of hydro in the overall power generating capacity are :

— The bulk of the untapped hydro-electric resources lies in the States which do not have resources for developing them;

— Inter-State disputes in sharing of water resources;

— Financial constraints;

— Problems in land acquisition, problem in afforestation and rehabilitation of oustees;

— Delay in execution due to geological surprise.

(d) In order to improve hydro generation share in the overall generating capacity in the country, Govt. of India have constituted a 'Group' to identify new hydel projects on which advance action needs to be taken during the 8th Five Year Plan and for suggesting a Plan of action for implementing these projects expeditiously so as to get benefits from these schemes by the end of 9th Plan. Further, keeping in view the constraints in financial resources it has been decided to associate Private Sector participation in power development including hydel power setcor.

Cost of Power Production

2368. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 203 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1992 and state the cost of power production in